

HONORING H. MERLE JACKSON,  
VICE CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

### HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Oregonian and a proud American, H. Merle Jackson.

Mr. Jackson, a native son of Oregon, served his country for 32 years. During his nine years on active duty in the United States Air Force, two years on active duty in the United States Navy and 21 years as a member of the United States Army Reserve, he served all over the world, including the Korean War and multiple tours in Vietnam, finishing his service to our Nation as a Master Sergeant.

After his retirement, Mr. Jackson continued his commitment to our Nation by taking up the cause of our retired fighting men and women through his work with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He has served as a post and district commander, state chairman and from 1998–99 he was the Department Commander for the State of Oregon.

Today, Mr. Jackson continues his lifelong dedication to those who have sacrificed so much for our Nation, as he enters his fourth year on the National Legislative Committee to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and his first year as Vice Chairman of this prestigious committee. He is the first Oregonian to serve in this capacity, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his dedication and determination to ensuring that we meet our responsibilities to our Nation's veterans.

### TRIBUTE TO DR. FRED BOSILEVAC

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Fred Bosilevac, one of the most beloved people in Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, celebrates his 90th birthday on September 11, 2006. Since 1970, two years after its inception, Dr. Fred has been president of Congressional Forum, a monthly luncheon with the area's third Congressional District representative sponsored by the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition to me, my Third District congressional predecessors who have fond memories of Dr. Fred include Larry Winn, Jr.; Jan Meyers; and Vince Snowbarger. Dr. Fred is known for his pithy commentary, regardless of the subject or speaker. He is the heart and soul of the Congressional Forum.

Dr. Fred is a native son of Kansas City, Kansas, from the historic Strawberry Hill neighborhood. He was the first medical doctor of Croatian descent in the area. He started his practice in the Brotherhood Building in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1949. He later moved his practice to the medical building on 18th Street. He practiced ophthalmology for 49 years.

Dr. Fred is also notable alumnus of the University of Kansas, which also is in my congressional district. Dr. Fred was a member of

the 1937 University of Kansas men's basketball team, and he and his son, Dr. Fred Bosilevac, III, are among four father-son combinations that played for the Jayhawks. Dr. Fred's 1937 team also played in the Final Four, which guaranteed him god-like status in my congressional district.

In addition to playing basketball, Dr. Fred played championship football at KU and was pressured to sign with a professional team after graduation. Nevertheless, he decided to attend medical school on the advice of his mother who reminded him that doctors made a good living.

Dr. Fred is an all around athlete and remains an avid hunter and golfer. A spring hunting accident in which he tripped and dislocated a shoulder required some surgery but has not deterred him from swinging a golf club daily.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Dr. Fred Bosilevac our heartiest wishes for a joyous day, and many more years for us to enjoy his marvelous example of a good and happy life.

### IN MEMORIAM OF A SON OF TEXAS: JUDGE JAMES DEANDA

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great honor and solemn regret for a great son of Houston that passed away last Thursday. I stand in honor of the late U.S. District Judge James deAnda who passed last week from a battle with cancer.

The son of Mexican immigrants, James deAnda was born and raised in North Houston and graduated from my alma mater, Jeff Davis High School. He went on to graduate from Texas A&M University, but not before he joined the U.S. Marines and served in the Pacific during WWII. Once returning from service he graduated from the University of Texas School of Law.

With a resume of this caliber James deAnda could have gone on to private practice and plea cases that would have made him a very rich man. Instead he went on to fight for the disproportionate and unrepresented Texans of that time. James deAnda went on to work cases, pro-bono cases, to fight segregation of Hispanics within Texas' schools, he also won a Supreme Court ruling stating that Hispanics were a separate group deserving of the same constitutional protection as other minorities.

While his career was a long and great one, cases such as these serve as witness to the type of character that Judge deAnda was. A man that never sought after the limelight or recognition.

Fortunately for all of us, he did gain recognition 1979, when President Jimmy Carter appointed James deAnda to serve as Federal Judge for the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Texas. He later would serve as Chief Judge of the Southern District of Texas. He became the second Hispanic to be appointed to a Federal Judge bench.

He served in this role with distinction until he retired in 1988, he went back to work in the private sector until he began cancer therapy.

Judge James deAnda leaves us with a great sense of honor and pride. The footprints that

he has left for us will be hard to follow. Judge deAnda took part in the creation of the Texas Rural Legal Aid and he was the co-founder of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, but most importantly he changed the law to work for all men and women during a time when there were many that were opposed to such change.

Mr. Speaker I ask for one minute of silence in honor of Judge James deAnda, not only a son and public servant of Texas but also of this great Nation. I ask this as his service takes place back home in Houston.

### SALUTE TO RUSTY HAMMER

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes and sincere gratitude to Rusty Hammer, who, after 5 fruitful years, left his position as president and chief executive officer of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

In keeping with the chamber's 118-year history, Rusty dedicated himself to improving the quality of life and economic prosperity of the Los Angeles Chamber's 1,500 members, who represent more than 600,000 employees throughout the Los Angeles region. Under Rusty's strong leadership, the Los Angeles Chamber has successfully built partnerships between business, community, labor and civic organizations. These partnerships have reestablished the chamber as the Los Angeles region's premier business advocacy organization.

During Rusty's tenure, he pioneered many noteworthy projects. For example, Rusty spearheaded the chamber's effort on local business tax reform and established a highly successful workforce development program. His leadership role in creating "Mobility 21," a transportation advocacy coalition, helped secure over \$2 billion in State and Federal funding for transportation improvements in Los Angeles. By partnering with the organization UNITE LA, Rusty helped create a badly needed and extremely valuable college scholarship program that has provided scholarships, application assistance, and college access information to nearly 30,000 students in the Los Angeles region.

Under Rusty's stewardship, the chamber's annual trip to Washington, DC, has become one of the most successful advocacy efforts on behalf of the Los Angeles region and the Los Angeles business community. In addition, his weekly opinion article, "The Business Perspective," provides an insightful and informative look at business issues facing the Los Angeles region.

Rusty's talents, innovative strategic thinking and willingness to work with stakeholders on all sides of the political spectrum have played an integral role in the Los Angeles area's economic growth. He has truly earned the respect, admiration and gratitude of all who know him and have worked with him.

While Rusty Hammer will truly be missed in Los Angeles and at the Los Angeles Area Chamber, we will all continue to benefit from his many contributions. We are fortunate that we will also gain from his talents as he continues to work on issues that affect California's economy and quality of life.